DELL

A MOVIE CLASSIC

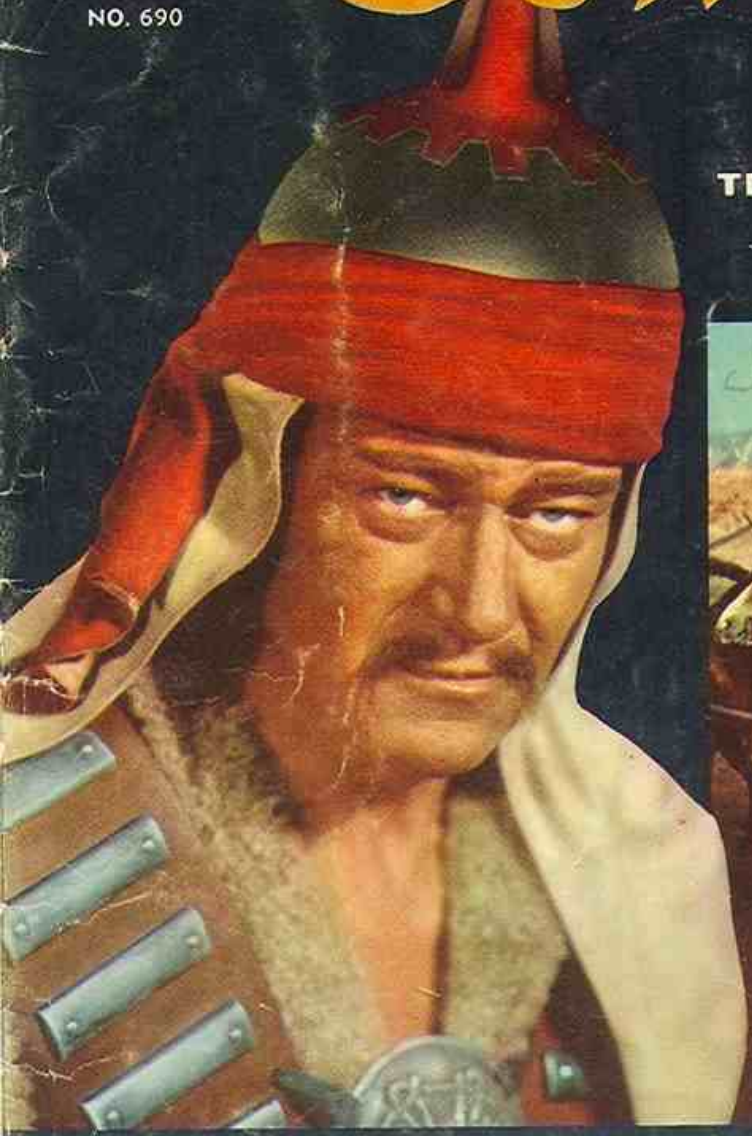
NO. 690

10¢

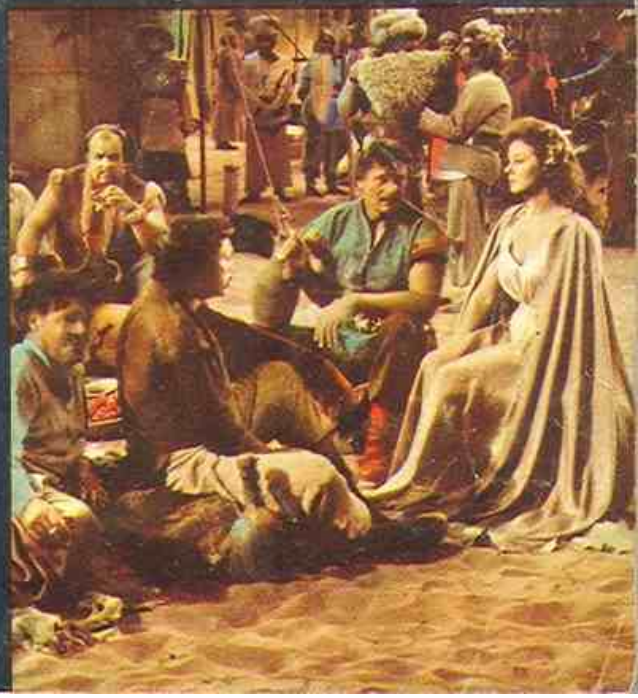
THE CONQUEROR

GENGHIS KHAN!

The world trembled at his name!

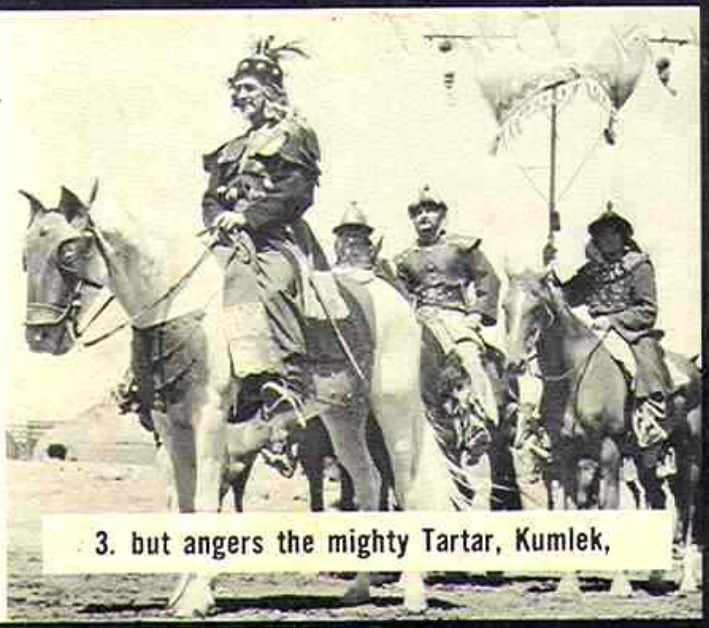


JOHN BIRT



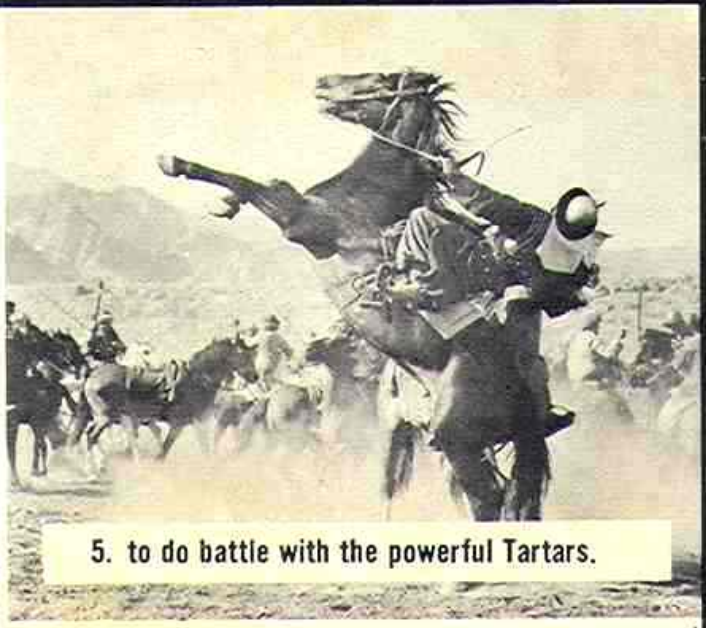
1. The young conqueror, Genghis Khan,

2. raids a caravan of enemy Merkits,



3. but angers the mighty Tartar, Kumlek,

4. and must seek aid from the great Wang Khan



5. to do battle with the powerful Tartars.

AN RKO RADIO PICTURE

filmed in **CinemaScope**

HOWARD HUGHES presents

JOHN WAYNE-SUSAN HAYWARD

in

THE CONQUEROR

A DICK POWELL PRODUCTION

print by **TECHNICOLOR**

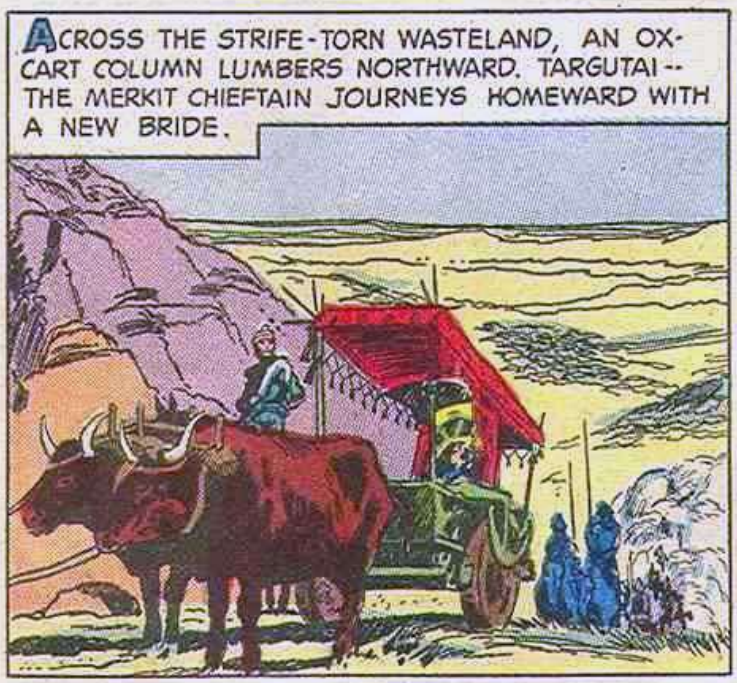
written by **OSCAR MILLARD**

produced and directed by **DICK POWELL**

THE CONQUEROR, No. 690. Published by Dell Publishing Co., Inc., 261 Fifth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.; George T. Delacorte, Jr., President; Helen Meyer, Vice-President; Albert P. Delacorte, Vice-President. Single copies, 10 cents. © 1956, RKO Radio Pictures, Inc. All rights reserved throughout the world. Authorized edition. Printed in U.S.A. Designed and produced by Western Printing & Lithographing Co.

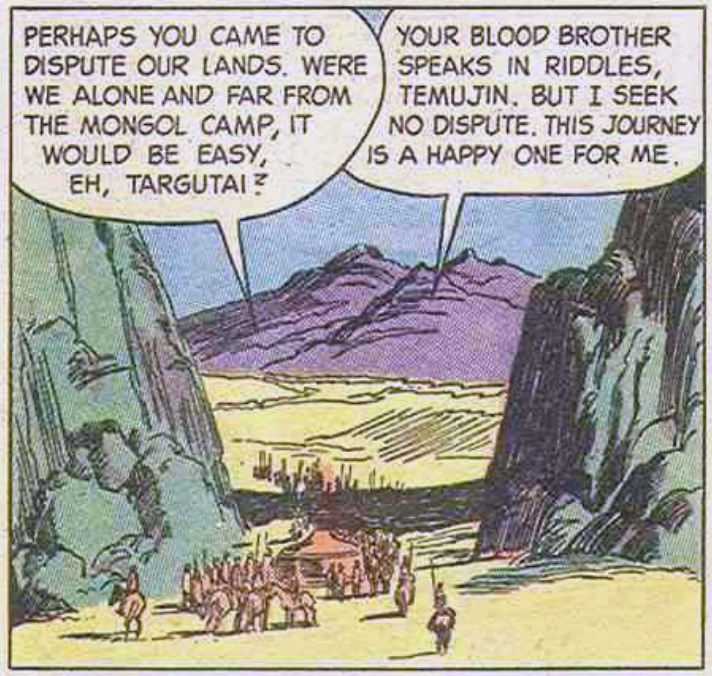
THE CONQUEROR

THE TWELFTH CENTURY-- THE NOMAD TRIBES OF THE GOBI DESERT SEETHE WITH UNREST. MONGOLS, MERKITS, TARTARS AND KARAITS STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL AND SUPREMACY. TRIBE CONTENDS AGAINST TRIBE, CLAN AGAINST CLAN, AND NO MAN TRUSTS HIS BROTHER.



LORD, IT IS THE MONGOL CHIEF, TEMUJIN, AND HIS BLOOD BROTHER, JAMUGA.
MAKE WAY! I WOULD SPEAK WITH TARGUTAI.

WHO DARES STOP TEMUJIN ON HIS OWN LAND?
A CHIEF'S LANDS ARE THOSE HIS MEN CAN HOLD WITH ARMS, TEMUJIN!

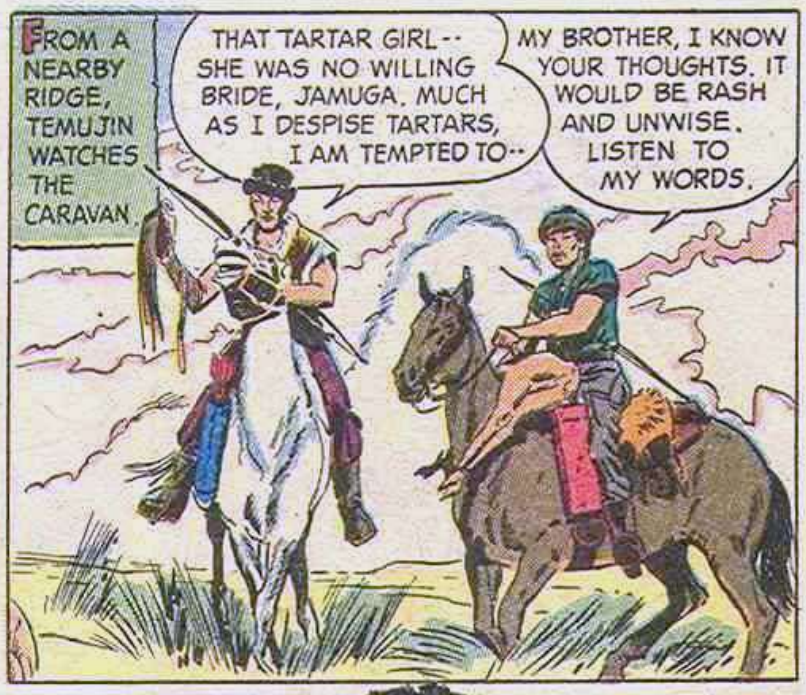

PERHAPS YOU CAME TO DISPUTE OUR LANDS. WERE WE ALONE AND FAR FROM THE MONGOL CAMP, IT WOULD BE EASY, EH, TARGUTAI?
YOUR BLOOD BROTHER SPEAKS IN RIDDLES, TEMUJIN. BUT I SEEK NO DISPUTE. THIS JOURNEY IS A HAPPY ONE FOR ME.

I AM TAKING A WIFE FOR MYSELF -- A WOMAN OF THE TARTARS, TEMUJIN.
STRANGE! AN OCCASION OF JOY, BUT THE WOMAN DOES NOT SEEM TO BE OVERJOYED BY THE OCCASION!

STILL, IT IS NOT MY AFFAIR. FAREWELL, TARTAR WOMAN.
HE WOULD PAY DEARLY FOR HIS INSOLENCE, BUT I WANTED TO RISK NO VIOLENCE, LEST IT IMPERIL YOU.

YOU *FEARED* HIM. THE MONGOL WOULD NOT DARE TOUCH THE DAUGHTER OF KUMLEK, CHIEFTAIN OF THE TARTARS.
YOU DO NOT KNOW THIS SON OF YESSUGAI. I SUSPECT TEMUJIN HAD MEN CONCEALED NEARBY AND WAS SEEKING TO PROVOKE ME.

YOUR FATHER WAS WISE TO DO AWAY WITH YESSUGAI. NOW THE MONGOLS ARE WEAK AND SCATTERED.
YET YOU WERE TOO COWARDLY TO BRAVE TEMUJIN!

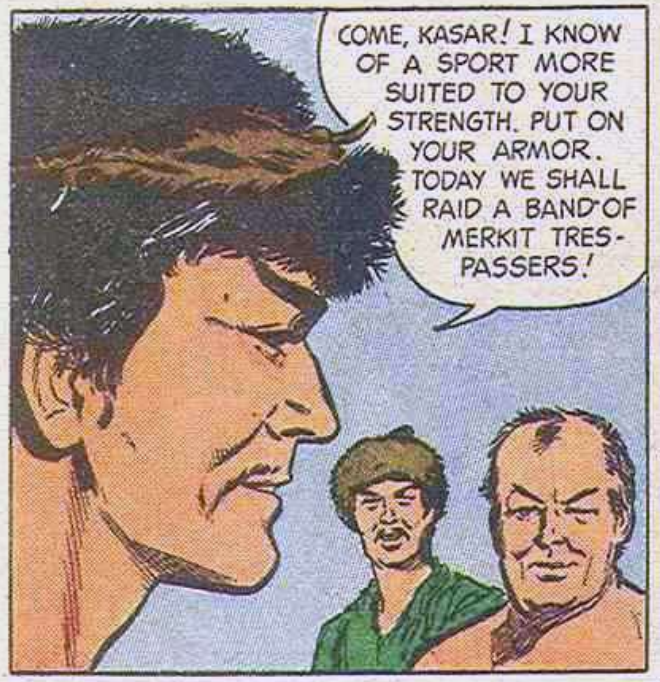

FROM A NEARBY RIDGE, TEMUJIN WATCHES THE CARAVAN.
THAT TARTAR GIRL-- SHE WAS NO WILLING BRIDE, JAMUGA. MUCH AS I DESPISE TARTARS, I AM TEMPTED TO--
MY BROTHER, I KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS. IT WOULD BE RASH AND UNWISE. LISTEN TO MY WORDS.

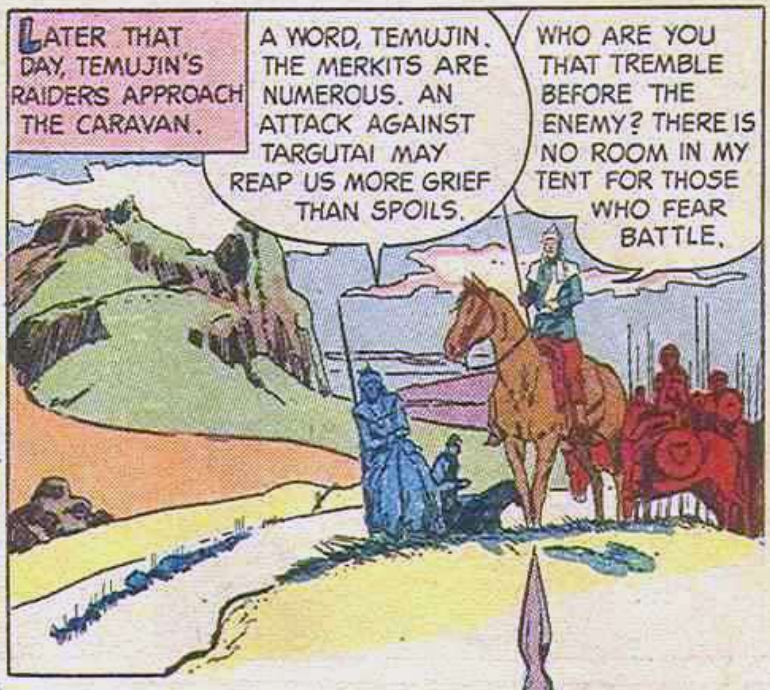
ONE DAY YOU WILL REGAIN YOUR HERITAGE -- THE LANDS AND DOMINIONS OF YOUR FATHER YESSUGAI. BUT THAT DAY IS NOT YET. OUR NUMBERS ARE SMALL AND THE MERKITS POWERFUL
NUMEROUS THEY ARE, BUT HOW POWERFUL UNDER THAT CRAVEN TARGUTAI?

THIS GIRL GIVES US A PRIME OCCASION TO TEST TARGUTAI'S STRENGTH, AND TO PAY THE MERKITS BACK FOR SOME OLD SCORES. COME, WE RIDE FOR THE CAMP!

AT THE MONGOL CAMP, TEMUJIN AND JAMUGA ARE MET BY A STRANGE SIGHT.
WHY IS THAT CROWD GATHERED?
THEY ARE WATCHING OUR YOUNGER BROTHER, KASAR, EXERCISE HIMSELF.

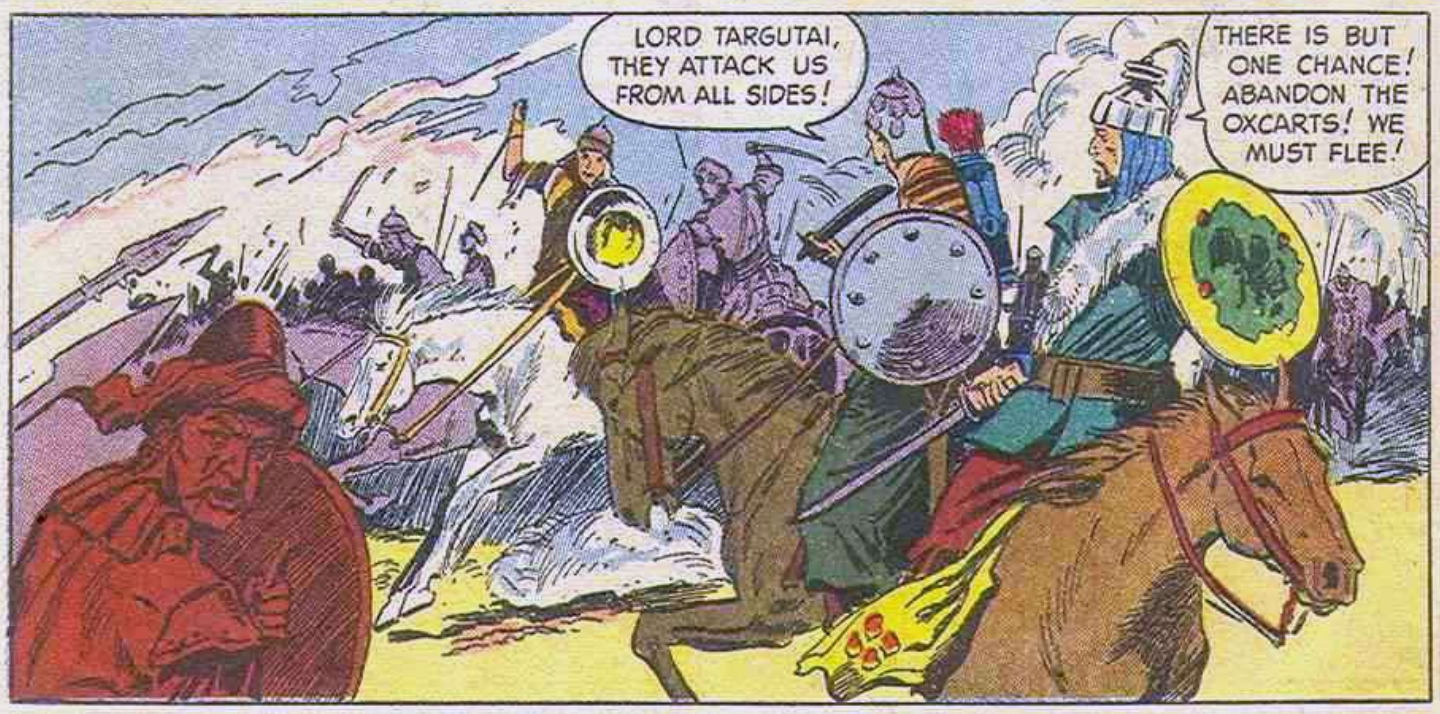
WELL DONE, BROTHER KASAR!

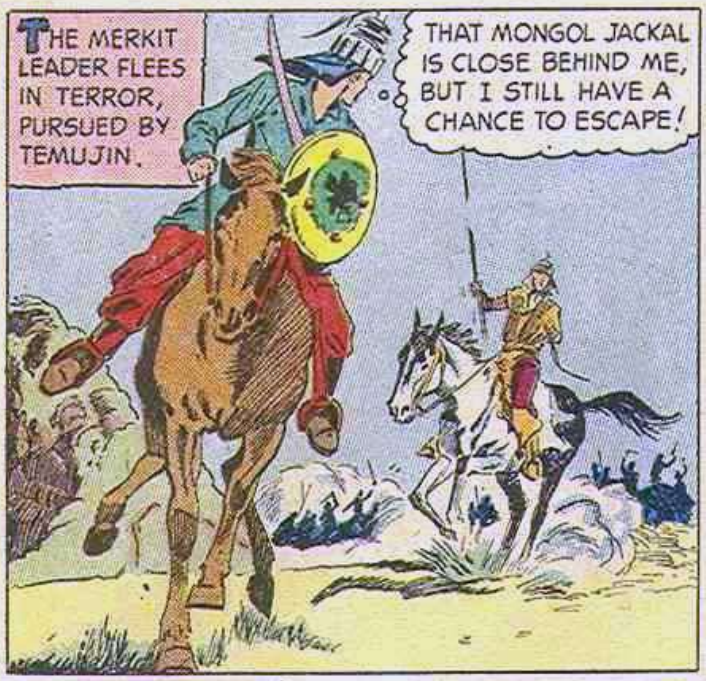

COME, KASAR! I KNOW OF A SPORT MORE SUITED TO YOUR STRENGTH. PUT ON YOUR ARMOR. TODAY WE SHALL RAID A BAND OF MERKIT TRESPASSERS!


LATER THAT DAY, TEMUJIN'S RAIDERS APPROACH THE CARAVAN.
A WORD, TEMUJIN. THE MERKITS ARE NUMEROUS. AN ATTACK AGAINST TARGUTAI MAY REAP US MORE GRIEF THAN SPOILS.
WHO ARE YOU THAT TREMBLE BEFORE THE ENEMY? THERE IS NO ROOM IN MY TENT FOR THOSE WHO FEAR BATTLE.

WE BUT OFFERED YOU COUNSEL. WOULD WE FEAR TO FOLLOW TEMUJIN, WHO IS WITHOUT EQUAL IN BATTLE?
WELL SPOKEN, MY JAMUGA OF THE SILVER TONGUE! WE ATTACK AS PLANNED.

REMEMBER! I WANT THE TARTAR WOMAN UNHARMED! BARAK! FORWARD!


LORD TARGUTAI, THEY ATTACK US FROM ALL SIDES!
THERE IS BUT ONE CHANCE! ABANDON THE OXCARTS! WE MUST FLEE!


THE MERKIT LEADER FLEES IN TERROR, PURSUED BY TEMUJIN.
THAT MONGOL JACKAL IS CLOSE BEHIND ME, BUT I STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO ESCAPE!

UGGH!
WHY SUCH HASTE, CHIEF TARGUTAI? DO YOU SPURN THE HOSPITALITY OF MY LANDS?

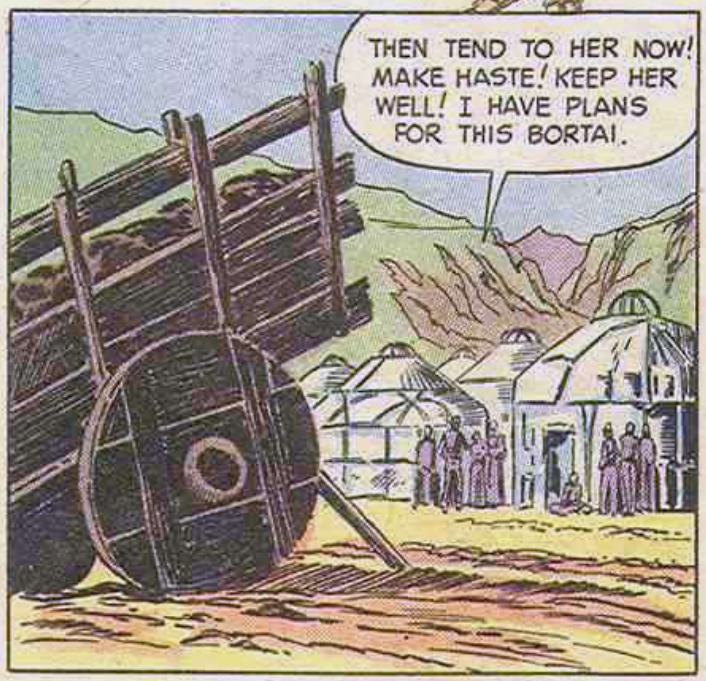
BRAVE SUITOR, WOULD YOU DESERT YOUR BRIDE? MAKE HASTE, THE TARTAR GIRL AWAITS YOU.

WHAT WOULD THE TARTAR WOMAN HAVE ME DO WITH THIS HERO?
LET HIM GO, MONGOL! HE HAS NOT HARMED ME.

I SPARE YOUR LIFE. RETURN TO YOUR PEOPLE, TARGUTAI, AND SPEAK WELL OF THE MONGOL'S GENEROSITY.
YOU ARE WRONG TO LET HIM GO, TEMUJIN. THE WOUNDED BEAST IS DANGEROUS.

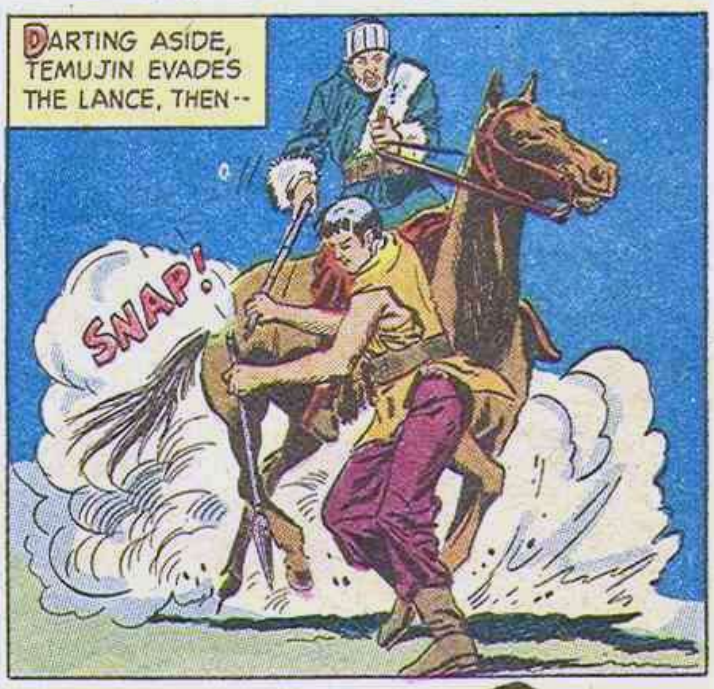
I HAVE NO FEAR OF TARGUTAI, WOUNDED OR WHOLE. BUT WHO ARE YOU, TARTAR WOMAN?
I AM BORTAI, CHILD OF KUMLEK, CHIEF OF ALL THE TARTARS.

BACK AT THE MONGOL CAMP, TEMUJIN BRINGS THE TARTAR PRINCESS BEFORE HIS MOTHER, HUNLUN.



THE YAK-TAIL STANDARD! THIS IS TEMUJIN'S TENT!

OUT, TEMUJIN! MY LANCE AWAITS YOU!
HERE I AM, TARGUTAI!


DARTING ASIDE, TEMUJIN EVADES THE LANCE, THEN--
SNAP!

TEMUJIN QUICKLY PICKS UP AND HURLS THE STEEL TIP OF THE BROKEN LANCE, AND--
I BUT BORROWED THIS, TARGUTAI. YOU MAY HAVE IT BACK NOW!

AND AS TARGUTAI FALLS MORTALLY WOUNDED...
BORTAI! THE FIGHTING HAS FRIGHTENED HER. SHE IS IN DANGER OUT HERE.

AS TEMUJIN FOLLOWS BORTAI...
THE MONGOL CHIEF! QUICKLY, OR WE WILL LOSE HIM IN THE NIGHT!

OUT IN THE DARKNESS, TEMUJIN FINDS BORTAI. TOGETHER THEY HIDE FROM THE VENGEFUL MERKITS
QUIET, BORTAI! I WOULD NOT HAVE THEM TAKE YOU.

IN THE DAWN, TEMUJIN RETURNS TO THE CAMP WITH HIS CAPTIVE.
WELCOME BACK, MY SON. BEHOLD OUR CAMP! MANY HAVE DIED NEEDLESSLY FOR THIS CHILD OF KUMLEK
WHAT TALK IS THIS, MY MOTHER? THE GIRL IS NOT TO BLAME

THEN AS JAMUGA LEADS THE WEARY MONGOL WARRIORS BACK INTO CAMP--
MY BROTHER! NO ILL BEFELL YOU! WE ROUTED THE MERKITS, BUT MANY MEN WERE WOUNDED.
MEN WE SHALL MISS WHEN KUMLEK AND HIS TARTARS DESCEND ON US.

LEAVE THE TARTARS TO ME. I WELCOME THEIR COMING
TAKE THE TARTAR WOMAN TO HER TENT AND GUARD HER. LET NO HARM COME TO BORTAI

ALL OF YOU TAKE HEED! I PLAN TO TAKE THE TARTAR WOMAN FOR A WIFE
MY SON, THIS YOU CANNOT DO. THE MEMORY OF YOUR FATHER--

NO! THERE WILL BE AN END TO THIS TALK ON BORTAI'S ACCOUNT. JAMUGA, COME TO MY TENT. WE WILL BREAK-FAST TOGETHER.

ON TEMUJIN'S TENT, THE BLOOD BROTHERS TAKE COUNSEL.
THE MEN FEAR WHAT WILL BEFALL WHEN KUMLEK STRIKES. WHO CAN BLAME THEM?
WAS IT NOT OUR DREAM, JAMUGA, THAT I REGAIN MY FATHER'S STOLEN DOMINIONS AND UNITE THE TRIBES AGAINST THE TARTAR OPPRESSORS?

IT STILL IS, BUT THE TIME IS NOT YET RIPE. THAT IS WHY I, TOO, FEEL THIS DAUGHTER OF KUMLEK WILL BRING DISASTER.
YOU ARE WRONG. I TELL YOU SHE WILL LEAD ME TO ACHIEVE WHAT I HAVE PUT OFF TOO LONG-- VICTORY OVER THE TARTAR TYRANTS.

VICTORY OVER THE TARTARS? THIS WOMAN MUST HAVE TOUCHED YOUR WITS, TEMUJIN.
NO, MY BROTHER. YOU FORGET WANG KHAN, RULER OF THE KARAITS. WE COULD HAVE HIS FORCES TO HELP US.

WERE NOT MY FATHER AND WANG KHAN BLOOD BROTHERS, EVEN AS YOU AND I? I HAVE A BLOOD CLAIM ON HIM THAT I HAVE NEVER MADE, EVEN IN MY EARLY TRIALS...
... BECAUSE THE YOUNG TEMUJIN HAD PRIDE.

BUT I GO AS NO BEGGAR, NOW. AFTER THIS VICTORY OVER THE MERKITS, HE WILL BE GLAD TO HAVE ME AS AN ALLY. THE MERKITS AND TARTARS ARE WANG'S FOEMEN TOO.
TRUE. OUR MERKIT CAPTIVES SPOKE OF A PLAN TO JOIN WITH THE TARTARS IN AN ATTACK ON THE KHAN.

YOUR PLAN MIGHT WORK-- UNLESS WANG KHAN TAKES COUNSEL OF HIS SHAMAN. IT IS SAID HE PLACES MUCH RELIANCE IN SOOTHSAYERS.
I WILL TAKE THAT RISK. JAMUGA, YOU WILL STAY HERE AND MAKE READY TO MOVE THE CAMP WHEN I RETURN.

AS BOTH MEN LEAVE THE TENT.
WHAT OF BORTAI? IT WILL NOT BE EASY FOR HER, HERE AMONG THE MONGOLS.
TRULY SAID. I WILL TAKE HER WITH ME

THE NEXT DAY FINDS TEMUJIN ON THE ROAD TO URGA-- THE SEAT OF WANG KHAN'S FORCES.

HERE IS OUR CAMP FOR TONIGHT. MY MEN HAVE ALREADY PITCHED THE TENTS. YOU WILL FIND MORE EASE THIS NIGHT THAN THE LAST.
WHAT EASE CAN THERE BE FOR ME AMONG MONGOLS?

IN THAT PACK ARE MY FURS. THEY WERE PART OF MY DOWRY FOR MY MARRIAGE TO TARGUTAI
TRUE. BUT WE ARE TO BE MARRIED, AND SO THE DOWRY BECOMES MINE. I PLAN TO MAKE A GIFT OF THOSE FURS TO WANG KHAN WHEN WE REACH URGA TOMORROW.

THE NEXT DAY, IN URGA, TEMUJIN IS WELCOMED BY THE KHAN.
GREETINGS, TEMUJIN, MY SON. MY HOUSE IS YOURS.
YOUR WELCOME TOUCHES ME, O KHAN.

MY HEART IS REMINDED OF YOUR FATHER, YESSUGAI, MY BLOOD BROTHER -- SO TREACHEROUSLY DONE AWAY WITH BY KUMLEK.
WHAT SAY YOU, O KHAN, TO HIS DAUGHTER?

BEHOLD, THIS IS BORTAI, DAUGHTER OF KUMLEK!
THE TARTAR'S DAUGHTER. SHE IS INDEED BEAUTIFUL, TEMUJIN.

I BRING YOU A GIFT OF EQUAL BEAUTY, O KHAN -- THESE FURS.
A REGAL GIFT, MY SON! AND NOW LET THERE BE MUSIC AND FEAST BEFITTING TEMUJIN, CHIEF OF THE MONGOLS.

AT THE EXOTIC FEAST OF WELCOME, THE SHAMAN SITS AT WANG KHAN'S SIDE, GIVING COUNSEL.
TEMUJIN SPOKE OF GREAT NEWS. MIGHT WE NOT HEAR IT NOW?
THE NEWS IS INDEED TROUBLING. I HAVE WORD THAT THE TARTARS AND MERKITS ARE JOINING FORCES TO ATTACK US.

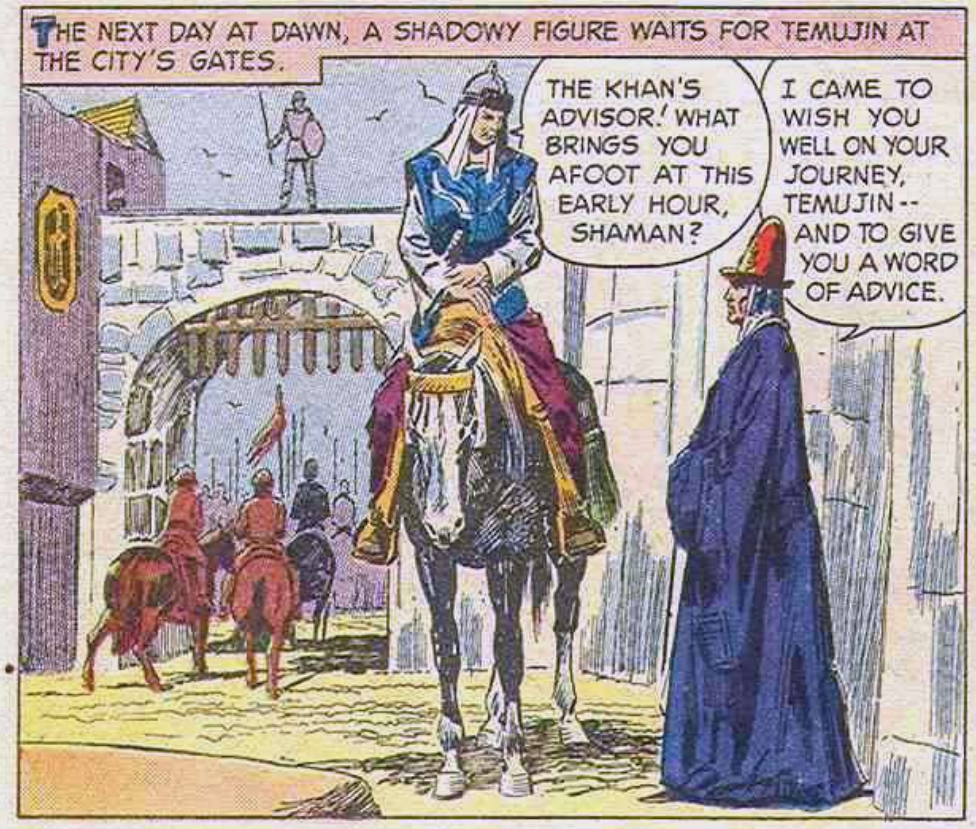
IT SHOULD BE NO SURPRISE. WE BOTH HAVE CAUSE TO KNOW KUMLEK'S TREACHERY AND TARGUTAI'S AMBITION.
TARGUTAI IS NO MORE, BUT KUMLEK PLANS TO DESTROY US AND RULE THE GOBI LANDS.

WHAT SAY YOU OF THIS, SHAMAN?
SO GREAT A QUESTION DEMANDS A SURER ANSWER THAN I CAN GIVE. LET A SHEEP BE SACRIFICED AND THE SHOULDER BLADES BROUGHT HITHER. THE SPIRITS SHALL THEN SPEAK.

LATER THAT NIGHT, THE SHAMAN READS THE OMEN OF THE FUTURE.
GODS OF FIRE AND GODS OF WATER, GODS OF AIR AND GODS OF THUNDER, SHOW THY MESSAGE BEFORE MY EYES. MAKE THE TRUTH ARISE -- ARISE!

IT IS EVEN AS TEMUJIN RELATES, O KHAN. THE TARTARS PREPARE TO ATTACK YOUR CITY.
ALAS, THAT MY CITY OF URGA WILL NOT BE LEFT IN PEACE.
O KHAN, YOUR PEACEFUL CITY CAN BE SPARED ALL STRIFE. GATHER YOUR CLANS AND JOIN ME IN DEFEATING THE TARTARS AND MERKITS. THUS WILL MY FATHER BE AVENGED AND HIS HERITAGE RETURNED TO ME.

YOU SPEAK WISELY, TEMUJIN.
I DEPART WITH THE FIRST LIGHT, O KHAN. I WILL SEND WORD NAMING THE DAY AND PLACE WHERE OUR FORCES WILL MEET.

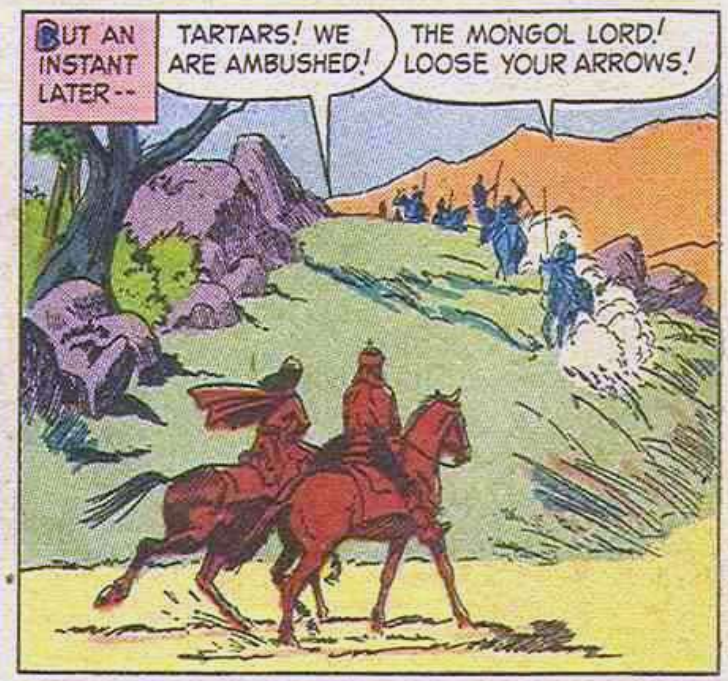

THE NEXT DAY AT DAWN, A SHADOWY FIGURE WAITS FOR TEMUJIN AT THE CITY'S GATES.
THE KHAN'S ADVISOR! WHAT BRINGS YOU AFOOT AT THIS EARLY HOUR, SHAMAN?
I CAME TO WISH YOU WELL ON YOUR JOURNEY, TEMUJIN -- AND TO GIVE YOU A WORD OF ADVICE.

THE KHAN GROWS IDLE AND FULL OF YEARS. SOON HIS PETTY CHIEFS WILL FIGHT AMONG THEMSELVES TO TAKE HIS PLACE. OTHER TRIBES WILL FALL ON US. THE MOMENT IS RIPE FOR THE COMING OF A YOUNG KHAN OF BOLD CUNNING.

FAREWELL! I WISH YOU WELL, TEMUJIN KHAN!!

HASTILY, TEMUJIN TURNS HOMEWARD, BUT WHEN HE REACHES THE MONGOL ENCAMPMENT--
THE TARTARS HAVE TAKEN THE CAMP!
SCATTER, ALL OF YOU. AT NIGHT-FALL GO INTO THE CAMP SINGLY. BRING ME NEWS OF WHAT HAS BEFALLEN. I WILL AWAIT YOU HERE.

THE MONGOLS DISPERSE. THEN--
WE MAY BE SEEN. LET US SEEK THE SHELTER OF THOSE TREES.


BUT AN INSTANT LATER--
TARTARS! WE ARE AMBUSHED!
THE MONGOL LORD! LOOSE YOUR ARROWS!

THE TARTAR ARROWS STRIKE HOME UNHORSING TEMUJIN! FRIGHTENED, BORTAI'S MOUNT BOLTS IN PANIC!
MY SHOULDER! UHHHHHH!
M-MY HORSE! I CANNOT HOLD HIM!

THE SOUND OF BATTLE BRINGS SOME OF TEMUJIN'S FOLLOWERS ON THE RUN.
OUR LORD TEMUJIN IS IN DANGER! ATTACK!

BUT THE VALIANT MONGOLS ARE BADLY OUTNUMBERED, AND SOON--
MY MEN ARE DEFEATED. I-I MUST HIDE. MY WOUND WEAKENS ME.

CRAWLING INTO THE BRUSH, WOUNDED TEMUJIN SIGHTS A SMALL CAVE--
THE TARTARS SEARCH FOR ME... SHELTER... IN THIS CAVE...

LATE THAT NIGHT, A SECOND FIGURE ENTERS THE CAVE.
JAMUGA, MY BLOOD BROTHER! SO YOU HAVE FOUND ME. TELL ME OF THE BATTLE.
BAD NEWS, TEMUJIN. KUMLEK REVELS IN OUR TENTS. THE TARTARS HAVE BORTAI!

THEN, BY THE LIGHT OF A TINY FIRE...
MY WOUNDS HAVE STOPPED BLEEDING NOW, THANKS TO THE BINDINGS YOU TORE FROM YOUR SHIRT. NOW, TELL ME OF OUR LOSSES.
THEY WERE FEW. THE TENTS WERE READY TO MOVE AS YOU ORDERED. MUCH WAS SAVED BY OUR RETREAT. WE WERE NOT PURSUED LONG. IT IS YOU KUMLEK SEEKS.

JAMUGA, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME. YOUR PLACE IS WITH OUR PEOPLE.
THEY ARE SECURE IN THE WESTERN GORGES. YOUR PERIL WAS THE GREATER.

I CAME UPON THE SIGNS OF AMBUSH. WHEN I DID NOT FIND YOU, I RECALLED THIS CAVE OF OUR YOUTH.
THE PLACE WE SWORE BLOOD BROTHERHOOD-- A PLACE OF GREAT DREAMS, JAMUGA.

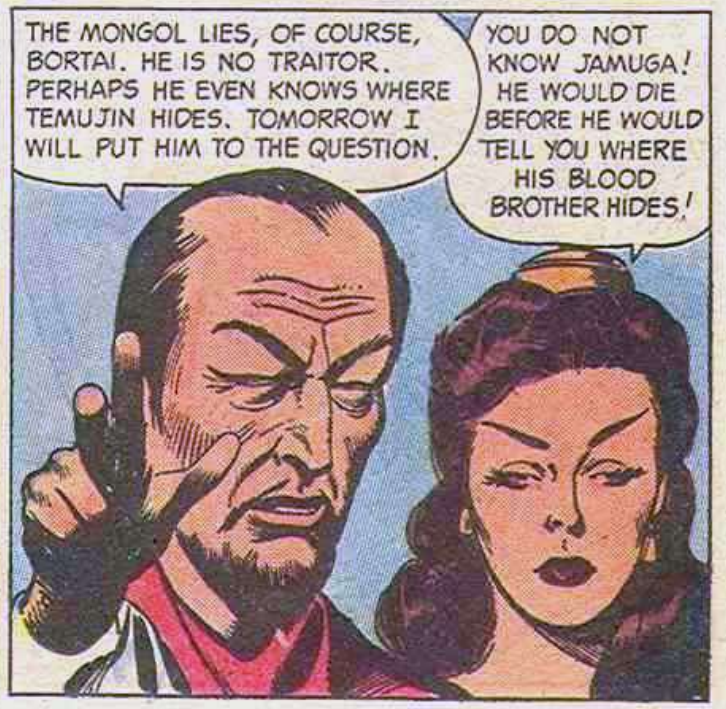
TEMUJIN WILL YET CONQUER. I WILL RETURN TO THE CAMP, NOW. IF I CAN SLIP BY THE TARTARS, I MAY GET SOME HORSES.
GUARD YOURSELF WELL, MY BROTHER.

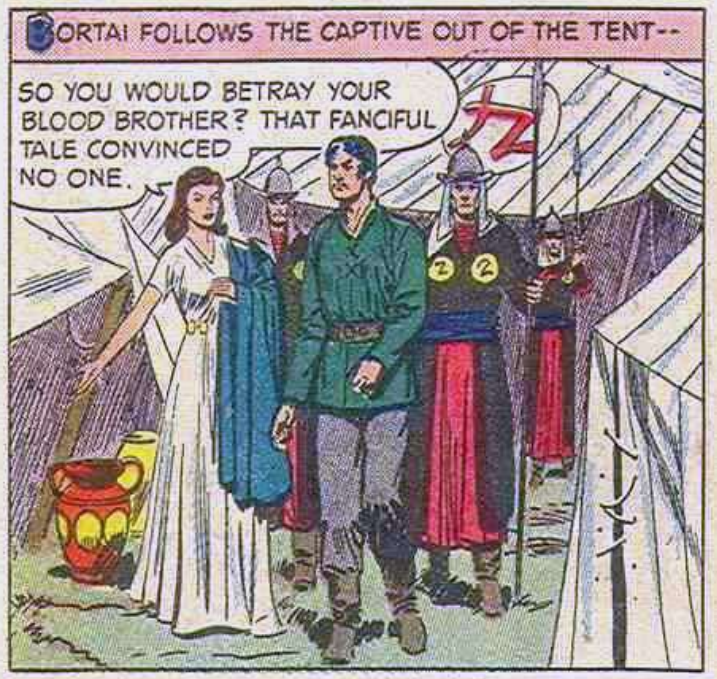
BUT AT THE CAMP, AS JAMUGA TRIES TO SLIP BY THE SENTRIES--
HALT, MONGOL!
A TARTAR GUARD! I MUST THINK FAST IF I AM TO TALK MYSELF OUT OF THIS ALIVE.

I AM A MONGOL GENERAL, COME FREELY TO SPEAK TO YOUR GREAT CHIEF, KUMLEK! TAKE ME TO HIM.
DO NOT FEAR, YOU WILL SEE KUMLEK SOON ENOUGH. FORWARD!

FACE TO FACE WITH KUMLEK, JAMUGA TRIES TO OUTWIT THE TARTAR LEADER.
LORD KUMLEK, A MONGOL-- I CAPTURED HIM!
HE LIES! I CAME OPENLY INTO CAMP. I SEEK TO SERVE YOU, KUMLEK. I HAVE DESERTED TEMUJIN.

HIS FOLLIES HAVE ROUSED HIS PEOPLE AGAINST HIM. HE IS UNFIT TO RULE.
I SEE! HM... I WILL SPEAK TO THIS MONGOL MORE. TAKE HIM AWAY AND GUARD HIM!


THE MONGOL LIES, OF COURSE, BORTAI. HE IS NO TRAITOR. PERHAPS HE EVEN KNOWS WHERE TEMUJIN HIDES. TOMORROW I WILL PUT HIM TO THE QUESTION.
YOU DO NOT KNOW JAMUGA! HE WOULD DIE BEFORE HE WOULD TELL YOU WHERE HIS BLOOD BROTHER HIDES!

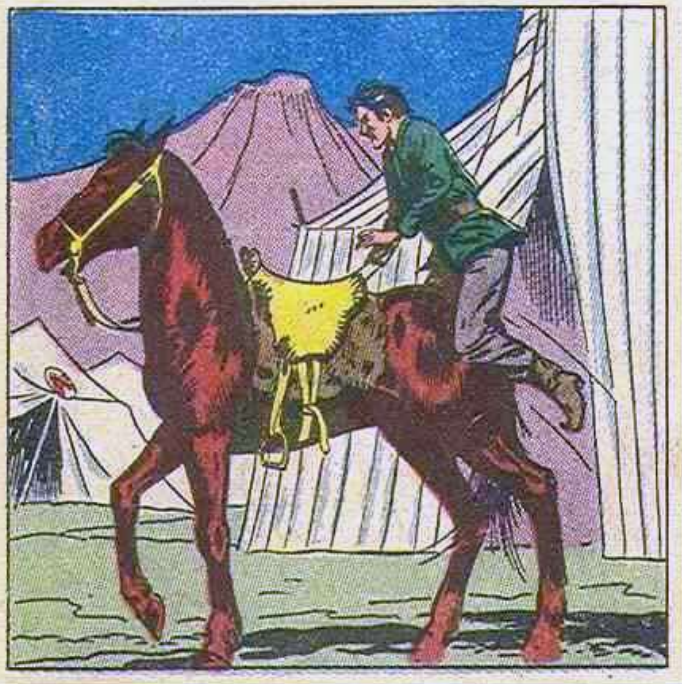

BORTAI FOLLOWS THE CAPTIVE OUT OF THE TENT--
SO YOU WOULD BETRAY YOUR BLOOD BROTHER? THAT FANCIFUL TALE CONVINCED NO ONE.

WHAT IS THERE ABOUT THIS TEMUJIN THAT MAKES YOU LOVE HIM THUS?
THE ANSWER LIES IN YOUR OWN HEART, BORTAI.

PUT HIM IN A TENT. I, KUMLEK'S DAUGHTER, ORDER IT.
WE HEAR AND OBEY, BORTAI.

I MUST ESCAPE AND GET TO TEMUJIN...

SECONDS LATER--
THAT BLOW WILL KEEP HIM SILENT WHILE I MAKE MY ESCAPE.



BUT, TARTAR EYES SPY THE ESCAPING MONGOL.
COME, WE WILL FOLLOW HIM. I'LL WAGER THIS TIME WE WILL NOT RETURN WITHOUT TEMUJIN.

LATER THAT NIGHT, OUTSIDE THE HIDDEN CAVE --
CHIRP-A-TWEET!
A BIRD CALL! IT IS JAMUGA SIGNALLING HIS RETURN. I MUST GO TO HIM.

GOOD! IT HAPPENED AS WE PLANNED! HE HAS LED US TO TEMUJIN.

BUT AS KUMLEK'S MEN CLOSE IN --
TARTARS! I'VE BEEN FOLLOWED! I MUST DECOY THEM AWAY FROM TEMUJIN!

AND AS JAMUGA SPURS HIS HORSE AWAY FROM TEMUJIN --
QUICKLY, WE MUST PURSUE JAMUGA.
FOOLS! IT IS TEMUJIN WE WANT. SEIZE HIM!

WEAK FROM HIS WOUND AND UNARMED, TEMUJIN IS SEIZED--
YOUR BLOOD BROTHER SERVED YOU WELL, LORD TEMUJIN.
JAMUGA... CAN IT BE THAT HE BETRAYED ME?

THE NEXT MORNING, THE WOUNDED CHIEFTAIN IS DRAGGED IN TRIUMPH INTO THE TARTAR CAMP--
BEHOLD! HERE IS TEMUJIN, SON OF YESSUGAI! GAZE UPON HIM, THE CHIEF OF THE MONGOLS, BROUGHT TO ME IN DISGRACE!
BORTAI, I AM GRIEVED THAT I CANNOT GREET YOU AS I WOULD.

WHAT? DOES THIS MONGOL DARE ADDRESS MY DAUGHTER?
STAY! HOLD YOUR BLOWS, MY FATHER! HE IS YOUR PRISONER! IS THAT NOT ENOUGH?

WHAT PUNISHMENT WILL YOU DECREE, MY FATHER?
IT IS NOT YOUR AFFAIR, BORTAI. WHEN I AM DONE WITH HIM, HE WILL NEVER FORGET WHAT IT MEANS TO ROUSE THE WRATH OF KUMLEK!

I DO NOT FEAR YOUR THREATS, TARTAR! REMEMBER THIS, WHILE I AM ALIVE, YOU ARE NOT SAFE!
AWAY WITH THE INSOLENT MONGOL! GET HIM OUT OF MY SIGHT!

THAT NIGHT, KUMLEK GIVES A VICTORY FEAST--
THE SENTRY IS ASLEEP. HE IS DULL WITH FOOD AND DRINK. IF THIS ROPE WILL ONLY ALLOW ME TO REACH HIM...

SLEEP SWEETLY, O TARTAR, YOUR REST IS WELL EARNED.

I CAN UPROOT THIS POST, BUT I MUST WORK QUICKLY, OR I WILL BE SEEN.

BUT ANXIOUS FOR TEMUJIN'S SAFETY, BORTAI AND HER SERVANT HAVE BEEN WATCHING IN THE NIGHT--
TEMUJIN ESCAPES!
HE IS HEADING FOR THE RIVER! QUICKLY, WE MUST OVERTAKE HIM.

AT THE RIVER, THE WOUNDED CHIEFTAIN KNEELS TO DRINK.
TEMUJIN!

BORTAI! SO YOU HAVE COME TO REPAY ME WITH A KNIFE!
YES, MONGOL. IT IS BORTAI...

...BUT THIS KNIFE IS FOR YOUR BONDS!
HIS STRENGTH IS GONE. HE CANNOT STAND.

HE HAS SUFFERED MUCH. NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH STRENGTH AND COURAGE.
DENY NOT THE HEART, BORTAI.

I MUST GO NOW, HOCHIN.
BRING HIM FOOD AND DRINK AND GUIDE HIM TO THE HORSES. LET HIM KEEP MY DAGGER IN CASE OF NEED.
I HEAR AND OBEY.

SOON, THE RAGING TARTARS ARE SCOURING THE COUNTRY-SIDE FOR TEMUJIN-- IN VAIN.

TOWARD DAWN, TEMUJIN SLIPS PAST THE TARTARS ON A STOLEN HORSE.

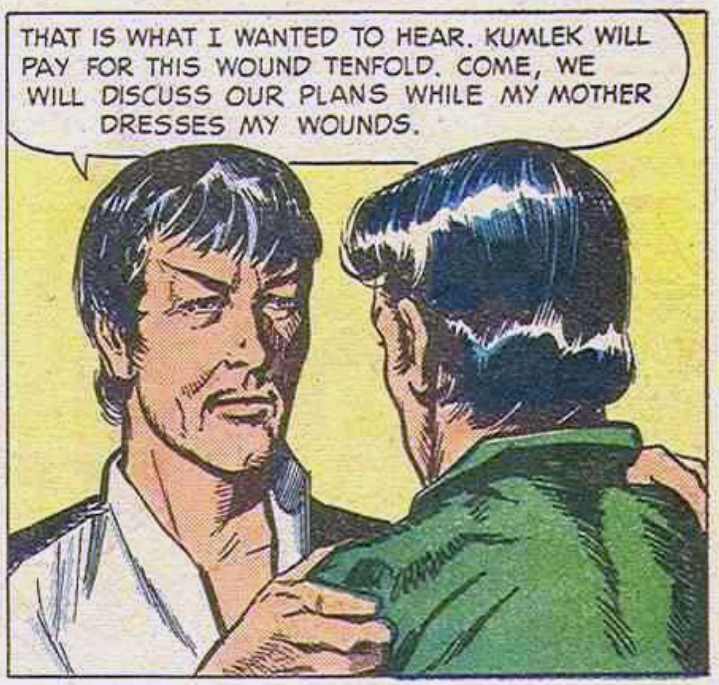
THE NEXT DAY, A WEARY RIDER ARRIVES AT THE MONGOL CAMP IN THE WESTERN GORGES.
TEMUJIN, MY SON! WE BELIEVED YOU SLAIN.
DEATH DOES NOT COME EASILY TO TEMUJIN, MY MOTHER.

SO THE PEOPLE BELIEVED ME SLAIN? AND WHO DID THEY CHOOSE AS CHIEF IN MY PLACE?
WHO BUT YOUR BLOOD BROTHER, JAMUGA, COULD LEAD US IN OUR ADVERSITY?

A MOMENT LATER, IN JAMUGA'S TENT...
TEMUJIN, MY BROTHER!
YES, I HAVE RETURNED, JAMUGA--TO FIND THE CHIEFTAIN'S YAK TAIL STANDARD BEFORE YOUR TENT.

I SEE NO BETRAYAL IN YOUR EYES. IT MUST BE THE BLACKEST KIND OF TREACHERY THAT CAN MASQUERADE AS BROTHERLY LOVE!
SO YOU BELIEVE I BETRAYED YOU? YOU DISHONOR ME AND SHAME YOURSELF WITH THE THOUGHT.

CURB THAT SILVER TONGUE OF YOURS. SPEAK STRAIGHT! DID YOU BETRAY ME TO THE TARTARS?
NO!


THAT IS WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR. KUMLEK WILL PAY FOR THIS WOUND TENFOLD. COME, WE WILL DISCUSS OUR PLANS WHILE MY MOTHER DRESSES MY WOUNDS.

AS HUNLUN BINDS TEMUJIN'S INJURIES...
JAMUGA, WE MARCH TO RAISE THE MONGOL CLANS AGAINST THE TYRANT KUMLEK. YOU WILL DEPART AT ONCE FOR URGA. TELL WANG KHAN I AWAIT HIS FORCES IN THE HILLS OF KERULON.
MY BROTHER, I DOUBT--

SO, JAMUGA IS IN DOUBT? KASAR, YOU HAD BETTER GO WITH HIM TO URGA. YOUR BRAWN MAY SERVE TO HELP HIS WIT IN CASE OF TROUBLE.
AS YOU WILL, TEMUJIN. COME, KASAR, WE MUST BE ON OUR WAY.

THE WOUND WILL HEAL. WOULD THAT I COULD ALSO CURE THE MADNESS THAT POSSESSES YOU.
THEN YOU OPPOSE MY PLAN TO REGAIN MY HERITAGE FROM MY FATHER'S ENEMIES?

MY SON, I WOULD NOT STAND IN YOUR WAY. BUT, LIKE JAMUGA, I FEEL IT IS TOO EARLY!
NO, MOTHER, I CAN LISTEN NO LONGER. IT IS TIME FOR ME TO LEAD MY PEOPLE BACK TO THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE AMONG THE GOBI NATIONS.

TWO DAYS LATER, TEMUJIN'S ENVOYS ARRIVE BEFORE WANG KHAN.
SHAMAN, DO YOU HEAR? JAMUGA BRINGS WORD OF TEMUJIN'S ESCAPE. IT IS A MIRACLE I TELL YOU.
TEMUJIN HAS SENT US TO TELL YOU THAT HE AWAITS YOUR FORCES IN THE HILLS OF KERULON AT THE FULL OF THE MOON.

BUT, THE CALCULATING SHAMAN HAS PLANS OF HIS OWN.
LORD KHAN, THESE ENVOYS HAVE RIDDEN HARD AND FAR. THEY MUST BE WEARY.
TRUE. REST AND REFRESH YOURSELVES, MY FRIENDS. WE WILL TALK AGAIN IN THE COOL OF THE DAY.

AND AFTER KASAR AND JAMUGA DEPART.
I CATCH THE SCENT OF TREACHERY IN THIS TALE OF TEMUJIN'S MIRACULOUS ESCAPE. THE MONGOL'S SECRET PURPOSE MAY BE TO TRICK US INTO WAR WITH KUMLEK.
PERHAPS! BUT TO WHAT END?

THEY HOPE TO FATTEN ON OUR FLESH, O KHAN. IT IS SAID THAT WHEN TEMUJIN WAS BORN, THE OMENS PROMISED HIM GREATNESS. BEWARE, LEST THE MONGOL'S GREATNESS BE ACHIEVED AT *YOUR* EXPENSE.

AND WHAT SAY THE SPIRITS ABOUT ALL THIS, SHAMAN?
THE SIGNS ARE STILL UNCLEAR, AND TIME PRESSES. WITH YOUR LEAVE I, MYSELF, WILL RIDE TO THE MONGOL'S CAMP AND LOOK FURTHER INTO TEMUJIN'S DESIGNS *BEFORE* OUR FORCES ARE COMMITTED.

MY FAITHFUL SHAMAN. WHAT IF ILL SHOULD BEFALL YOU?
THEY SAY JAMUGA AND THE YOUNG BULL, KASAR, ARE MUCH BELOVED OF TEMUJIN. HOLD THEM AS HOSTAGES FOR MY SAFE RETURN.

IN ANOTHER QUARTER OF THE PALACE...
KASAR, THERE'S SOMETHING AFOOT. TOUCH NO MEAT OR DRINK LEST IT BE DRUGGED.
IF YOU FEAR TROUBLE, THEN WHY DO WE STAY HERE?

IF THERE IS TREACHERY BREWING, WE MUST UNCOVER IT. WE MUST STAY AND LISTEN WITHOUT BETRAYING OUR SUSPICIONS.
WHATEVER WE LEARN WILL NOT HELP TEMUJIN WHILE WE ARE HERE. I SAY HE SHOULD BE WARNED.

IF WE REFUSE TO STAY, THEY WOULD STOP US BEFORE WE REACH THE GATE.
YOU ARE RIGHT. ALREADY THE DOOR TO THE ROOM IS CLOSED AND GUARDED.

IN THE OUTER COURTYARD, AS THE SHAMAN DEPARTS FOR TEMUJIN'S CAMP...
I DEPART NOW FOR THE MONGOL CAMP. SHOULD THE PRISONERS ESCAPE ALIVE --
DO NOT FEAR, SHAMAN, THEY WILL NOT ESCAPE

BUT, THAT NIGHT, IN THE DARKENED PRISON ROOM...
JAMUGA? WHY ARE YOU PRYING THAT STONE SLAB FROM THE FLOOR?
KASAR, I THINK I SEE A WAY YOUR GREAT STRENGTH MIGHT HELP US ESCAPE.

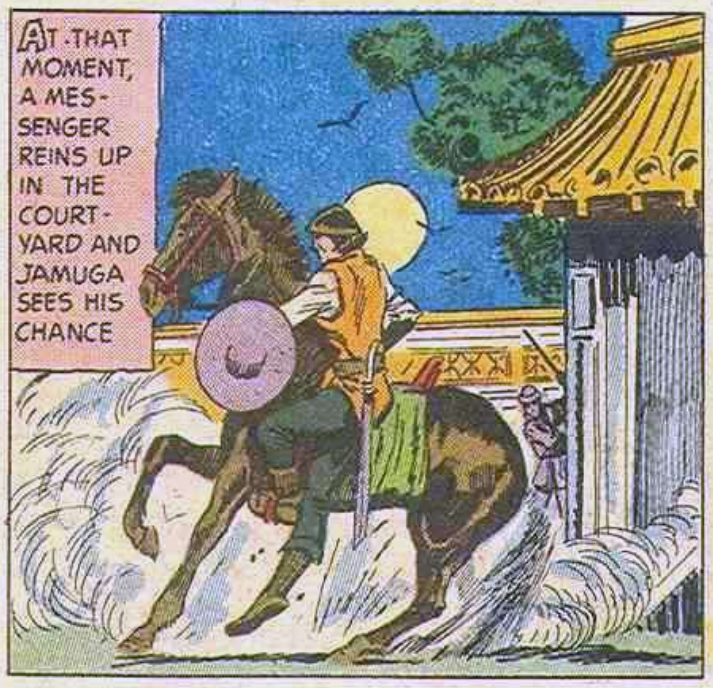
THRUST BETWEEN THE BARS, THUS, THIS SLAB WILL SERVE AS A LEVER...
AND LOOSEN THE WINDOW BARS IN THEIR SOCKETS! I UNDERSTAND.

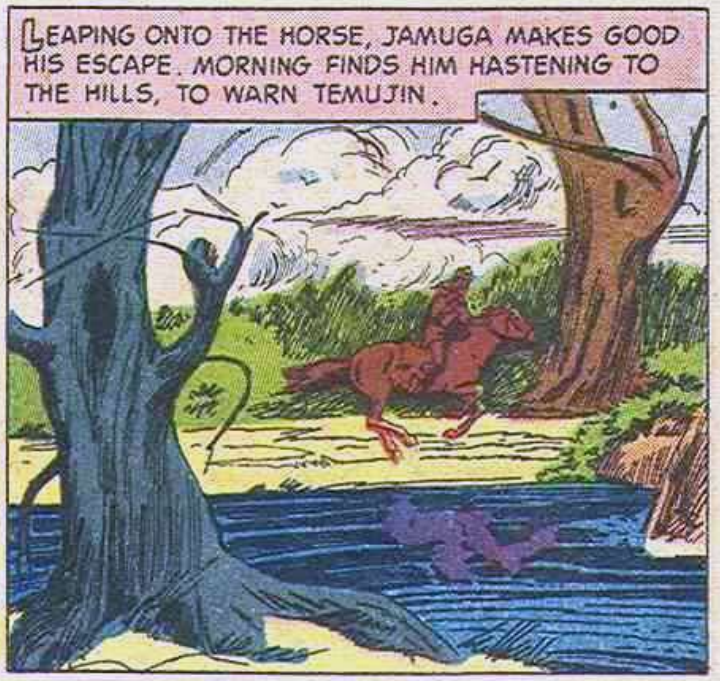
AS KASAR'S MIGHTY ARMS TEAR OUT THE WEAKENED BARS...
AT LAST A WORTHY PURPOSE FOR THESE MUSCLES! GO FIRST, JAMUGA -- AND HENCEFORTH CEASE TO MOCK ME FOR MY BRAWN.
HENCEFORTH I SHALL PROCLAIM IT FAR AND WIDE!

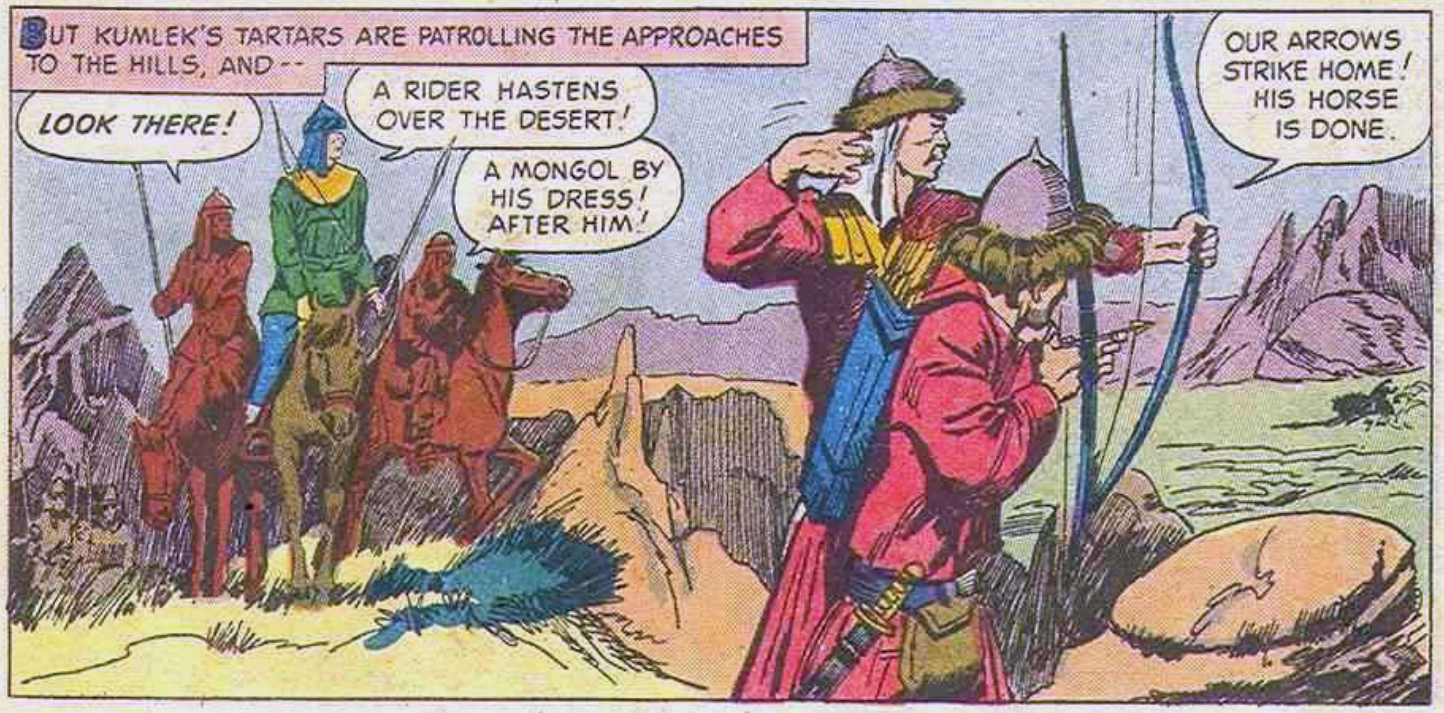
QUICKLY, FOLLOW ME, KASAR!
I CANNOT GET THROUGH THE BARS! I AM CAUGHT HERE! THE OPENING IS NOT WIDE ENOUGH

JUST THEN, BACK IN THE ROOM..
THE MONGOLS ESCAPE!
REMEMBER THE SHAMAN'S ORDERS. THEY MUST NOT ESCAPE ALIVE!

KASAR JAMMED IN THE WINDOW, SHOUTS TO JAMUGA OUTSIDE...
WE ARE DISCOVERED! GO QUICKLY, JAMUGA! AGGGHHH!


AT THAT MOMENT, A MESSENGER REINS UP IN THE COURTYARD AND JAMUGA SEES HIS CHANCE


LEAPING ONTO THE HORSE, JAMUGA MAKES GOOD HIS ESCAPE. MORNING FINDS HIM HASTENING TO THE HILLS, TO WARN TEMUJIN.


BUT KUMLEK'S TARTARS ARE PATROLLING THE APPROACHES TO THE HILLS, AND--
LOOK THERE!
A RIDER HASTENS OVER THE DESERT!
A MONGOL BY HIS DRESS! AFTER HIM!
OUR ARROWS STRIKE HOME! HIS HORSE IS DONE.

BEHOLD! WE SEARCH FOR TEMUJIN AND WE FIND HIS BLOOD BROTHER.
KUMLEK WILL BE GLAD TO SEE HIM. BIND HIM! WE WILL TAKE HIM TO OUR CAMP.

THAT NIGHT, IN THE HILLS, TEMUJIN WAITS VAINLY FOR JAMUGA'S RETURN
LORD, THE MOON IS FULL AND LONG SINCE HIGH... BUT THERE IS NO SIGN OF WANG KHAN'S FORCES. MUST WE MEET KUMLEK'S MEN ALONE?
MY VASSAL CHIEFS TREMBLE NEEDLESSLY. I EXPECT WORD SOON.

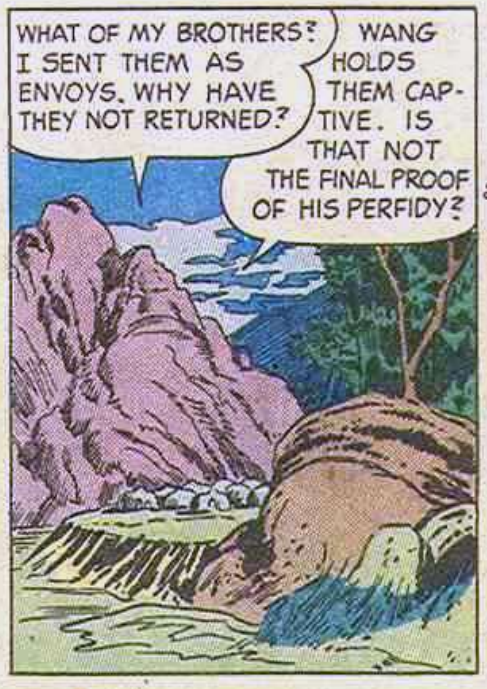
MINUTES LATER...
LORD TEMUJIN, AN ENVOY FROM WANG KHAN!
THE SHAMAN! BRING HIM TO MY TENT!

I BRING ILL TIDINGS, TEMUJIN. WANG KHAN WILL NOT COME. HE SITS SECURE IN HIS CITY WHILE HE WAITS WORD OF YOUR DESTRUCTION AT THE TARTAR'S HAND.
YOU RODE TWO DAYS TO BRING ME SUCH NEWS?

I CAME TO GIVE YOU THIS WARNING, AND A PLAN TO THWART THE OLD MAN'S TREACHERY. YOU MUST SEIZE URGA, I TELL YOU.
WHAT? BLEED MY STRENGTH IN A SIEGE OF WANG KHAN'S CITY?

THERE WILL BE NO SIEGE OR BATTLE. I MYSELF WILL OPEN THE GATES, AND URGA WILL FALL LIKE A RIPE PLUM.
IT WOULD SERVE WANG KHAN RIGHT IF HE PLANS TO BETRAY ME!

THE TIME IS COME, TEMUJIN KHAN -- IF YOU WOULD TREAD THE PATH TO POWER AND RICHES. AND THE YOUNG KHAN WILL KNOW HOW TO REWARD A HUMBLE SERVITOR.
THIS SHAMAN'S WORDS RING LIKE A *FALSE* COIN. IT WOULD BE WISE NOT TO TRUST HIM TOO FAR.


WHAT OF MY BROTHERS? I SENT THEM AS ENVOYS. WHY HAVE THEY NOT RETURNED?
WANG HOLDS THEM CAPTIVE. IS THAT NOT THE FINAL PROOF OF HIS PERFIDY?

MONGOLS! WANG KHAN HAS BETRAYED US! STRIKE CAMP! WE RIDE ON URGA *TONIGHT!*

TWO NIGHTS LATER, AT THE GATE OF WANG KHAN'S ROYAL CITY...
HO, GUARDS! I AM THE SHAMAN OF YOUR KHAN. I COME WITH THE MONGOL CHIEF FOR AN AUDIENCE WITH THE KHAN.
ADVANCE, SHAMAN! THE GATES ARE ALREADY OPEN!

BUT THE MONGOL ARMY IS HIDDEN NEARBY--AND AS A FLAMING ARROW ARCS INTO THE AIR...
TEMUJIN'S SIGNAL! THE GATES ARE OPEN! FORWARD, INTO URGA!

AS THE MONGOLS STORM THROUGH THE URGA GATE...
AND NOW TO SEEK OUT THAT TRAITOR, WANG KHAN.

BUT WHEN TEMUJIN BREAKS INTO THE KHAN'S SLEEPING QUARTERS...
MY SWORD HAS ALREADY AVENGED YOU, TEMUJIN KHAN. THE TRAITOR IS BREATHING HIS LAST.
TEMUJIN, BEWARE... SHAMAN SPOKE... POISONED WORDS AGAINST YOU...
IT--IT IS NOT TRUE, TEMUJIN. D-DO NOT BELIEVE HIM.
WHAT OF MY BROTHERS?
KILLED... SHAMAN'S GUARDS...
NO, YOU CANNOT BELIEVE HIM!
I SHOULD NOT HAVE PUT MY TRUST IN YOU. SEIZE HIM, MEN! HIS FATE IS SEALED!
THEN, ON THE PALACE BALCONY, OVERLOOKING THE CITY...
HEAR ME, MONGOLS! WANG KHAN IS SLAIN! URGA IS OURS!
THE NEXT MORNING, IN THE PALACE COURTYARD, TEMUJIN DICTATES A LETTER.
TO MY MOTHER, HUNLUN: I HAVE TAKEN URGA FROM WANG KHAN. KASAR IS SLAIN. JAMUGA IS GONE -- WHERE, I KNOW NOT. I MARCH AGAINST THE TARTAR TYRANTS! TEMUJIN.

LORD, WANG'S CHIEF CAPTAINS SWEAR ALLEGIANCE.
TEMUJIN ACCEPTS YOUR OATH. HENCEFORTH SERVE AND SHARE EQUALLY WITH ALL MY GENERALS.

AND NOW, LET ALL TAKE HEED! I, TEMUJIN, CHIEF OF ALL MONGOLS, MAKE IT KNOWN TO ALL MEN THAT THE LANDS AND DOMINIONS THAT WERE MY FATHER'S ARE MINE BY RIGHT! AND, TO RECAPTURE THEM, I MARCH AGAINST THE TARTARS!
WE FOLLOW-- TEMUJIN KHAN!

MEANWHILE, IN THE TARTAR CAMP, JAMUGA IS BEING QUESTIONED.
THE MAN WILL NOT TALK. HE IS MADE OF IRON.
MY FATHER, FOR THREE DAYS THEY HAVE QUESTIONED HIM UNCEASINGLY. PERHAPS I CAN PERSUADE HIM WITH A WOMAN'S GENTLENESS.

DO WITH HIM WHAT YOU WILL, BUT MAKE HIM TALK!
LET THE MONGOL BE BROUGHT TO MY TENT!

IN BORTAI'S TENT...
JAMUGA, MY FATHER'S GUARDS WATCH THE TENT. SPEAK LOW. TELL ME BUT ONE THING. I ASK NOTHING BUT TO KNOW IF HE LIVES.
YOUR VOICE IS GENTLE -- BUT I WILL NOT SPEAK.

TELL ME NOTHING, NOTHING -- ONLY THAT HE LIVES. HIS WOUNDS WERE GRIEVOUS. IS HE RECOVERED? TELL ME, JAMUGA, IN HEAVEN'S NAME!
YOUR PLEADING IS IN VAIN, BORTAI!

FOOL! IF MY FATHER KNEW OF THIS BETRAYAL, HE WOULD DRIVE ME FROM HIS TENTS. I CHANCE THIS GLADLY, JUST TO KNOW IF TEMUJIN LIVES. DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? YOU SAID ONCE YOU LOVED HIM MORE THAN LIFE.

HE LIVES, BORTAI. I COULD TAKE YOU TO HIM, BUT IT MUST BE SOON. DANGER THREATENS HIM. I WAS HASTENING TO WARN HIM WHEN I WAS CAPTURED.
DANGER? WHAT IF HE SHOULD BE KILLED?

TEMUJIN WILL NOT DIE. HIS LIFE IS CHARMED, FOR DESTINY HAS MARKED HIM. ONLY HIS PLANS ARE IN PERIL.
WE MUST GO TO HIM. I MUST FIND A WAY. TONIGHT!

THAT NIGHT, KUMLEK'S GUARDS WATCH THE CAMP CLOSELY.
SENSING DANGER, THE TARTAR CATTLE DRIFT IN AND OUT OF THE DARKNESS, SEEKING THE SHELTER OF THE TENTS...

BUT SOME OF THE CATTLE ARE MONGOL HORSEMEN IN DISGUISE.
TWAANNNGG!

THE GUARDS ARE SILENCED, TEMUJIN!
WAIT HERE! I GO TO FIND THE TENT OF KUMLEK'S DAUGHTER.

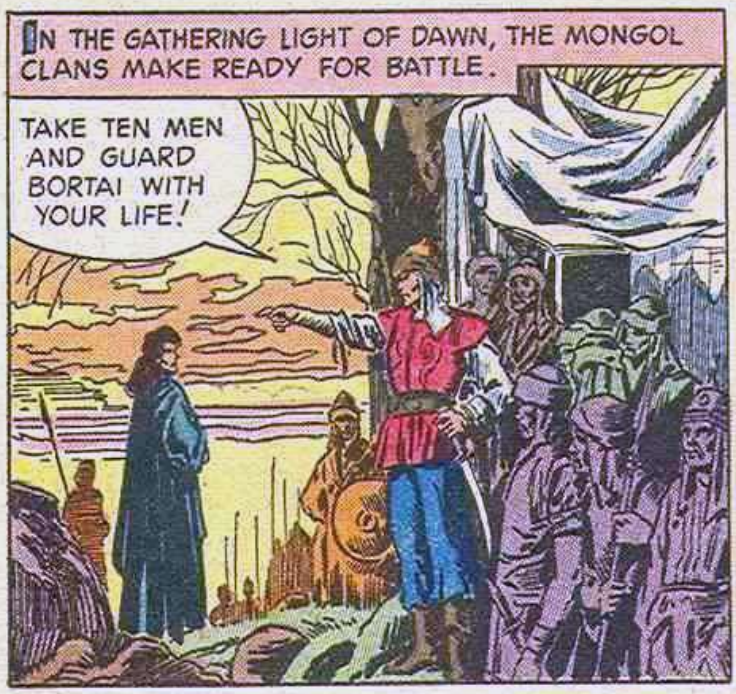
AT BORTAI'S TENT--
BORTAI! BORTAI!
TEMUJIN! I AM HERE!

BUT AS TEMUJIN SWINGS HER INTO THE SADDLE--
JAMUGA! MY BLOOD BROTHER HERE AMONG THE TARTARS? YOU HAVE BETRAYED ME AGAIN!

THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO PUNISH THIS TREACHERY!
TEMUJIN, NO! YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND!

AT THAT MOMENT, THE RAID IS DISCOVERED AND THE CALL TO ARMS SOUNDED!
IT IS TEMUJIN! HE HAS TAKEN KUMLEK'S DAUGHTER!

BUT THE RAIDERS VANISH INTO THE NIGHT--
I HAVE FOUND WHAT I WAS SEEKING. BORTAI, WE RETURN TO MY CAMP.


IN THE GATHERING LIGHT OF DAWN, THE MONGOL CLANS MAKE READY FOR BATTLE.
TAKE TEN MEN AND GUARD BORTAI WITH YOUR LIFE!

BORTAI, I GO TO AVENGE MY FATHER AND TO FREE MY PEOPLE.
TEMUJIN--I FEAR FOR YOU. TAKE CARE.

AT THE TARTAR CAMP, KUMLEK'S TRIBESMEN AWAIT THE MONGOL CHARGE.

WITH TEMUJIN IN THE LEAD, THE MONGOL'S SAVAGE ATTACK HURLS BACK THE FOE...
FORWARD, MONGOLS! THE ENEMY WAITS!

AND AT A NEARBY VANTAGE POINT.
WE CANNOT STOP THE MONGOL CHARGE. WE ARE DEFEATED, LORD KUMLEK.
WE MUST FLEE FOR OUR LIVES. THIS YOUNG UPSTART FIGHTS LIKE A SEASONED WARRIOR.
THE TARTARS RUN FROM THE FIELD.
KUMLEK GROWLS LIKE A LION, BUT RUNS LIKE A RABBIT!
AT A COMMAND FROM TEMUJIN, THE MONGOL RIGHT FLANK CUTS OFF THE FLEEING TARTARS, WHILE THE FULL FORCE OF THE MONGOLS PURSUES...
THE RABBIT RUNS SWIFTLY BUT OUR CLANSMEN RIDE MORE SWIFTLY STILL!
KUMLEK CANNOT ESCAPE. IT IS HIS APPOINTED HOUR.
AFTER THE BATTLE, THE VICTORIOUS TEMUJIN RETURNS TO CAMP.
THE TARTARS ARE DEFEATED. IT IS OVER. KUMLEK IS NO MORE.
IT IS BETTER THIS WAY. THOUGH HE WAS MY FATHER, HE WAS CRUEL AND A TYRANT. THE GODS HAVE GIVEN HIM THE JUSTICE HE DESERVES.
WHAT OF JAMUGA? I SEARCHED EVERYWHERE, BUT I HAVE NOT SEEN HIM!
IF I MISTAKE NOT, IT IS HE THAT COMES NOW.
MY HEART IS GLAD THAT HE LIVES TO REJOICE IN YOUR TRIUMPH. OPEN YOUR HEART TO HIM, TEMUJIN. HIS LOYALTY AND LOVE FOR YOU ARE NO LESS THAN MY OWN.

AND THE GREAT KHAN MADE SUCH CONQUESTS AS WERE UNDREAMED OF BY MORTAL MAN. THE TRIBES OF GOBI FLOCKED TO HIS STANDARD. THE DESERT TREMBLED UNDER THE HOOFS OF HIS HORSES. CITIES FELL BEFORE HIM. THE GREAT WALL CRUMBLED BEFORE HIS LEGIONS. FOR A HUNDRED YEARS, HIS CHILDREN RULED HALF THE WORLD.

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